

AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICE CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint
Agricolos." VIRG.

VOL. III.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, JULY 27, 1821.

NUM. 18.

AGRICULTURE.

OMISSION.

As introductory to the excellent address of R. H. Rose, published page 191 of this volume, we ought to have given the following proceedings of the Agricultural Society of Susquehanna County. We the more regret the omission, as it is our desire to preserve in a connected series all the proceedings of those Societies who do us the favour to make this Journal their organ of publication.

EDIT. AM FARMER.

The Society for the promotion of Agriculture and Domestic Manufactures, in and for the County of Susquehanna, was organized, on the sixth instant, at the Court-house, Montrose, by a large and respectable meeting of gentlemen of the county, at which time,

Robert H. Rose, Esq. was chosen president.
Joshua W. Raynsford, Esq. Secretary; and
Dr. Asa Park, Treasurer.
Cols. Frederick Bailey and Thos. Parke, David Post, Zenas Bliss, Rufus Lines, Jonah Brewster, Joab Tyler, and Walter Lyon, Esqs. and Messrs. Calvin Leet and Wm. Smith, Directors.

After which the following resolutions were adopted:
1st. That the first general meeting of the society shall be held at the Court-house, in Montrose, on Tuesday of May Court, 1821.

2d. That the annual meetings of the society shall be held on the first Tuesday of November, at Montrose, in each year.

3d. That the directors be required to draft by-laws for the Society, and present them to the general meeting in May next, for consideration.

4th. That the president be requested to deliver an address before the society, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock p. m.

At which time the meeting was re-opened with prayer by the Rev. Davis Dimock.

The president then delivered an address: after which it was resolved,

That the thanks of the society be presented to the president; and that he be requested to furnish a copy of his address for publication.

December, 1820.

PREMIUMS.

The Susquehanna County Agricultural Society gives premiums for the following articles:—

For the best acre of wheat, rye, corn, oats, barley, peas, pumpkins, and common turnips—for the best half acre of flax and potatoes, and for the best quarter of an acre of ruta бага, or Russian turnips, and of mangel wurtzel, or scarcity root—for the best stud horse, mare, bull, cow, yoke of oxen, ram, ewe, boar and sow—for the greatest quantity of cheese made from a certain number of cows not less than three, and for the best cheese—for the greatest quantity of butter according to the number of cows—for the greatest quantity and best quality of maple sugar—for the best woolen cloth, not less than ten yards, manufactured in the county; for the second best ditto for the best specimen of flannel—for the best piece of carpeting—for the best half dozen pair of stockings—for the best specimen of linen; for the second best ditto—for the best coverlid—for the greatest quantity and variety of household manufactures made in one family within twelve months preceding the day of exhibition—for the following agricultural instruments: best plough, harrow, straw cutter, and machine for extracting stumps, which shall be exhibited—for the

greatest quantity of stone walls as fences, made during the present season—for the best mode of clearing new lands

All articles and stock offered for premiums, are to be deposited, or in the pens, by ten o'clock in the morning of the day of exhibition.

The premiums will be proportioned according to the funds which shall be in the Society's possession at the time of exhibition, which will be on the first Tuesday of November in each year.

The manufactured articles are to be made entirely within the county, and the animals to be exhibited for premiums, are limited to those owned within the county

The society will be glad to receive communications on the subject of agriculture and domestic manufactures, for the promotion of which they are associated. All communications are to be made to the secretary.

The society is open for the admission of such citizens of the county as are desirous of becoming members: and it is confidently hoped that much benefit may be derived to the county from a co-operation to promote its welfare and prosperity, by encouraging and extending a knowledge of agriculture and domestic manufactures.

ELDER—(SAMBUCUS.—Linn.) June.

THE virtues of this shrub, which is found in abundance in our fields, and is now in full bloom, are not sufficiently well known among us. In continental Europe it is valued, and is used with success in many diseases. Chaptal Parmentier, and others, in their admirable dictionary of natural history, applied to the arts, and to rural and domestic economy, say, that from Hippocrates down to the present day it has been employed in medicine, and its virtues and properties unequivocally confirmed by time and experience.

Its flowers are resolute, anodyne, and emollient. Infused and drank like tea, they provoke and establish perspiration in certain fevers, colds, and catarrhs; fried with eggs they are an agreeable purge; applied as a fomentation in cases of erysipelas, they reduce the heat and irritation, and prove excellent in all disorders of the skin. Warmed and applied to the forehead and temples they cure the megrim. They are used in a vapor bath for swollen legs, particularly in the dropsy, in which disorder the berries, inner bark, and roots of this plant are used with great effect as a diuretic and purgative. From the berries a rob or thick juice is extracted, which is given with success in bowel complaints, and in the dysentery.

The flowers give a fine perfume to vinegar, and to wine the flavor of muscat; apples when laid on a bed of these flowers when dried, and then confined from the air, acquire an exquisite taste. A decoction of its berries dyes linen when passed through alum water, of a green brown colour; and excellent brandy can be distilled from them.

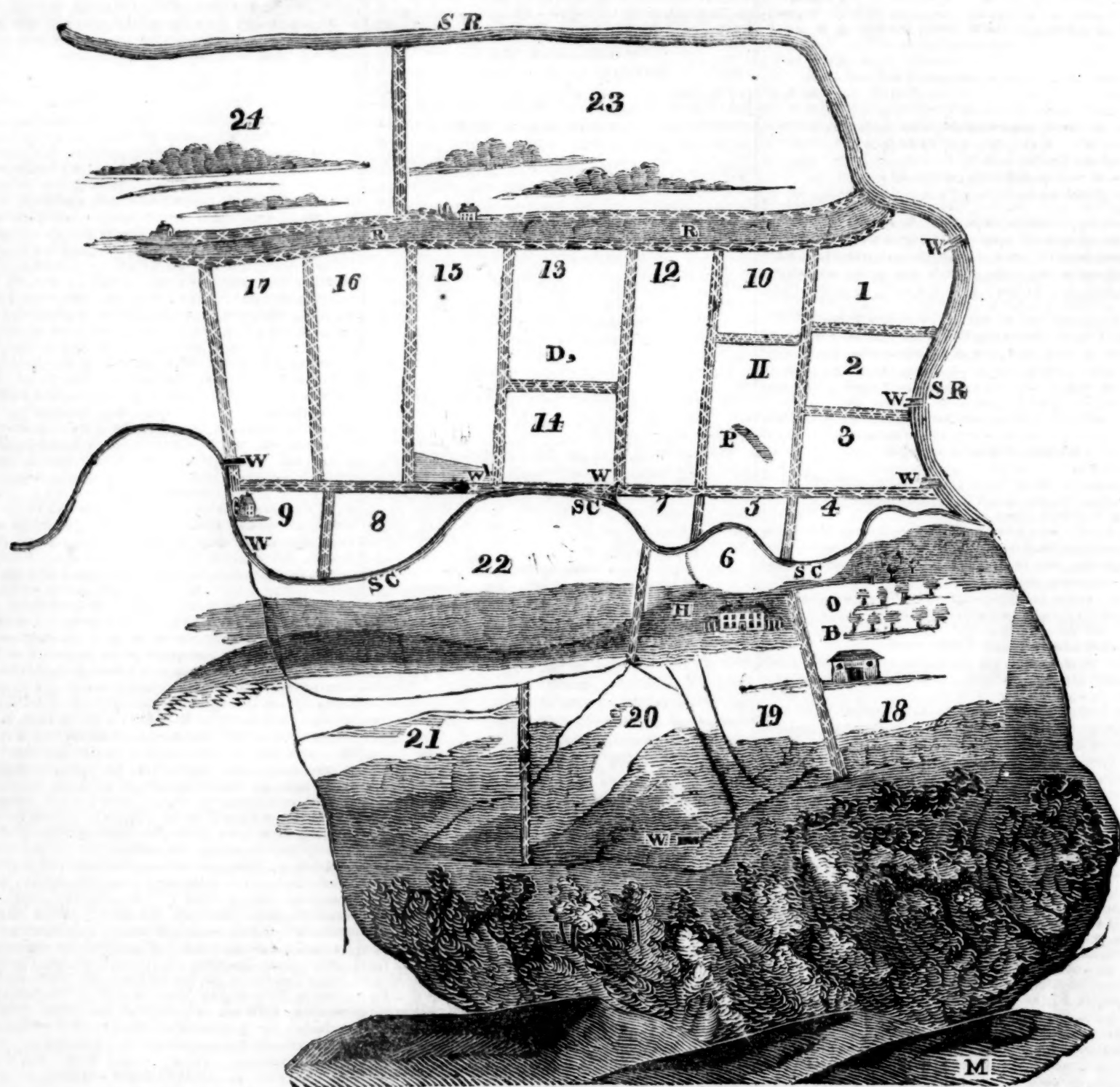
An English farmer in the county of Devonshire, in a season when the whole of the vegetation in his neighbourhood had been destroy-

ed by caterpillars, grasshoppers and other insects, observed that the Elder remained untouched, in full health and vigour; this induced him to make an experiment which was attended with perfect success. With boughs of the Elder tied together he went over his ground, whipping and brushing gently his cabbage plants, turnips, and even wheat, which drove off all the insects, who never returned. He then tried the same operation on his fruit trees with equal effect. Since this discovery has been made known, some boil the branches and leaves of this plant in water, and then sprinkle this decoction over young plants, which is said to preserve them effectually from destruction by insects. A particular account of this experiment was communicated many years ago to the Royal Society, by Christopher Gullet.

THE EDITOR'S NOTES ON THE HUSBANDRY OF SOME COUNTIES IN VIRGINIA—view of Mr. S*****'s farm in Shenandoah County.

The sketch which follows cannot properly be said to afford a view of the Agricultural practices of Shenandoah County—in as much as it relates to a farm, extraordinary for its size and fertility, and singular in many respects as well in the manner as for the scale on which its operations are conducted.—There are few of the many travellers through this rich valley, that feel an interest in the pursuits of husbandry, whose attention has not been attracted by the fine estate of Mr S*****. Its fertility is apparent to the most transient observation—as well in the amazing luxuriance of its productions, as in the prodigious droves of fat cattle sustained upon them.—The very spacious stone mansion of the proprietor, is seen from the road, occupying an elevated site from which it is obvious that with a single coup d'œil—he can distinguish every object in every field. A note from judge H of Winchester, whose kindness deserves repeated acknowledgements, served as my passport to an acquaintance with Mr. S.—and the occasion was gladly embraced to learn the minutiae of a system, under which the productiveness of a large estate, naturally fertile, had been so much augmented—I persuade myself that the practical part of my readers may experience, at least some portion of the interest which I did in obtaining a knowledge of the facts and remarks which this sketch is intended to convey.—In the communication of details under the heading of this paper, one particular satisfaction is experienced. It is the consciousness, that the reader may rely on the accuracy of the facts—let this reflection atone, as far as may be, for the want of attraction in the manner of conveying them.—In this as in previous instances, it has been my design and endeavour to present the information I gleaned, such as it was, in the most familiar form.

The Editor is here supposed to have embodied his queries in writing and the replies of Mr. S. are given as they were received. The farm is composed of several small tracts united, of all of which Mr. S. had no connected survey. The sketch given was taken with the pen, but is sufficiently exact for the present design. It gives the course of the Shenandoah River, and of Smith's Creek. The great road leading from Winchester to Staunton—the shape of the highland on which the house stands, and the size, form and number of the fields on the flat land, intervening between his dwelling and the road.



EXPLANATION OF THE ENGRAVING.

The view is from the mountain in the rear, looking towards the road.

H. Dwelling House of stone; 4 rooms on a floor, and portico at each of the front and side doors.

B. Barn.

O. Orchard.

W. Watering places for Stock.

P. Pond.

D. and No. 10, dry fields.
S. C. Smith's Creek.
S. R. Shenandoah River.
R. R. Road from Winchester to Staunton.
M. The Mountain.

LOTS OR FIELDS.

No. 1—45 acres.
2—30 do.
3—30 do.
4—40 do.
5—25 do.

No. 6—16 do.
7—12 acres.
8—30 do.
9—20 do.

No. 10—30 do.
11—45 do.
12—60 do.
13—45 do.
14—30 do.
15—50 do.
16—50 do.
17—60 do.

618 of cleared low level land.

18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 high and arable ground, containing 420 acres, being 1038 under cultivation. Between the high land and the foot of the mountain Mr. S. has 1000 acres of timber land. 23, Allen's land, 172 acres flat. 24, Lee's land, 150 acres flat.

The flat, or low ground, as you will see by the size of my fields, is upwards of 600 acres, my high land lies all on the east side of Smith's creek, and is upwards of 1400 acres, comprising in its aggregate, all the variety of soils within the great Shenandoah valley, viz. alluvial, loam, clay, sandy bedded upon clay, a mixture of clay and sand. My fields from number 1 to 9 inclusive, are nearly the whole of their alluvial soils requiring much less attention to their improvement than land of a different character. Field No. 1 contains 45 acres on part of which are the deposits by the river in high water, for ages, of vegetable mould, part sandy and part stiff clay. The treatment of these three kinds of soils are entirely different; to improve a sandy land by any course of manuring, is almost impossible; to spread the stronger kinds of manure upon it is like adding fuel to fire. Straw, however, as a repeller of heat, and a retainer of moisture is my remedy upon land of this character; but first, if possible, I get them set with grass, which is a difficult matter and no way so effectually accomplished as by feeding ripe hay over them in the winter; this I have frequently done, when my land was sown down in rye, and seldom fail of success, without the smallest perceptible injury to my rye crop. The alluvial soil within this field requires but little aid, a lay of clover for two or three years, is quite sufficient to enable it to bear a succession of crops for eight or ten years. The clay soil of the same field, requires much attention to keep it on a par with the last described part. This kind of soil, however, delights in all descriptions of manure, and plaster acts well on it; nevertheless, did it not break the arrangement of my field I would place it with land of the same grade. No. 2 and 3 have had no other improvement, than being occasionally laid down in clover. Nos. 4 and 5, were originally one field, and although these fields are all alluvial soils, yet those bordering on the creek, are in their nature, vastly different from those just described on the river, not a particle of sand is mixed with the soil on the creek, on the contrary they are of a stiff cohesive character, and highly susceptible of improvement in any way. My first essay to improve my soil commenced on this field. In 1795 I got possession of part of my present estate, and to give some idea about the former cultivation of these lands, and in what estimation they were held, I will here mention, that considerable doubts were expressed about the aptitude of those low lands, particularly for the production of grass, nevertheless in the spring of that year, I sowed those two fields, then but one, with oats, clover and timothy, my oat crop was good, my clover and timothy were well set, but on mowing them in the succeeding summer, 1796, I found that although the clover and timothy were sufficiently thick on the ground, yet the quantity of hay made on each acre was inconsiderable, and far short of my anticipations. To remedy this defect, was a source of some solicitude with me, particularly as I at no time could reconcile the idea of cultivating much land for a small product, and therefore, notwithstanding my conviction, that the measure would be unprofitable in the first instance, nevertheless I determined rigidly to pursue a system of improvement, that in the end would as I believed, insure success.

In the following winter 96-7, I stall fed a large quantity of beeves with hay and my cut up corn and fodder, by strewing them over the land extravagantly, until the ground was literally covered. The consequence was, an early start of my grass the ensuing spring, with a considerable increase of crops. I pursued the same course for two or three more successive winters, until my crop became abundant beyond my most sanguine expectations. In 1802, I found this field completely set with the English grass, or green sward, a convincing evidence of its restoration to health and vigour; in that spring I had the sward completely turned over, harrowed well, marked out, and planted in corn at the distance of 3 1-2 feet each way, tended the corn principally with the small harrow, taking care, when ploughed, not to disturb the sod, the crop was abundant in the extreme, but as I cut up this corn, I made no kind of measurement of the product per acre. I continued this field in corn for seven successive crops, with but little deterioration of crop, ex-

cept from difference of season, until the fall of 1809, when I sowed it with wheat, and in that winter, with clover and timothy, the wheat crop was good; the clover and timothy took badly, my course, however, with this field was established, and therefore could not be disappointed. Consequently in August 1810, I sowed better than half a bushel of rye to the acre, and harrowed it in without ploughing or disturbing the grass that was standing, with an additional quantity of clover and timothy seed, the rye crop was good, and the clover and timothy including the different seedings, was unusually well set, and although this field had borne seven successive crops of corn, one of wheat, and one of rye, yet it had by no means retrograded to its former state, but yielded me, with but little improvement, full crops of grass, up to the spring of 1817, by which time it had again become bound with the green sward. In that spring I had the turf laid over, and in every respect treated as in the spring of 1802; the result in my three successive corn crops was the same, but the crop in 1819 was not so good as the two preceding ones, owing entirely to an uncommon drought at the critical crisis of making corn. In August 1819 I sowed not quite one bushel of rye to each acre, without any further ploughing, but what had been done in laying by my corn the first of the preceding July, it was harrowed with a small corn harrow, both ways of the rows, the fall was tolerable seasonable, and forwarded my rye so as to afford an abundant pasturage for 35 beeves for upwards of five weeks. Then on the 14th day of March 1820, I turned 60 steers, designed for early beef, on those 40 acres, with the addition of 16 acres in field No. 6, and gave to each steer one gallon of meal per day, made from the corn and cob mixed with wheat chaff, during the whole time they ran on the rye, which was up to the 18th of April following, when I removed them to my pastures, but continued to feed them with the gallon per day of meal, which brought them into the beef market in the month of June following, in high credit, notwithstanding they were extremely poor when first turned on the rye in March. However injurious this treatment of my rye may appear to some agriculturists, my crop was the most abundant of the kind I ever made, yielding me from the 40 acres 1267 bushels;—*Quere*, whether the hoof of the beeves, fall and spring, was not a good substitute for the roller? which on some soils are so essentially necessary.—Fields No. 5, 6, 7 and 8 have all been improved in the same way as No. 4 and are equally productive. Field No. 9 is part of a late purchase, though of the same character as those last described, it is now undergoing the same course of improvement, and no doubts are entertained but that it will be, with a small exception, rendered as productive as any of the preceding fields.—The exception alluded to, is 2 or 3 acres, injured by the overflowing of the creek; which has swept off 5 or 6 inches of the surface of the soil, and although this is an entire alluvial soil for the depth of 4 or 5 feet, yet I find more difficulty in restoring one acre of this kind of land, to its former state of productiveness, than ten acres retaining their original surface. This fact Mr. Skinner, perhaps, is well worthy the notice of not only the theoretical, but practical farmer. It is a fact long since familiar to me, that, when by any means whatever, the surface of the soil to the depth of 4, 5 or 6 inches is removed, it is almost impossible to restore the next strata of 5 or 6 inches to a real productive condition, although it may be an alluvial soil. Will not this fact, support the conjecture, that the effects of the sun upon the surface, are so powerful as to attract the matter congenial to the support of vegetation, from the depth of 12 to 15 inches and by the arrangement of nature deposit it near the surface, leaving a space below the depth of the first 6 or 8 inches, entirely destitute of that matter; more especially as the fact is equally well understood, that the earth from a well or cellar, which, at the depth of 4 feet could not have been exposed to the influence of this cause, or the exhaustion of a cultivated surface, affords a tolerable good top dressing. I will here leave this subject in other hands and return to my course of improvements. My fields No. 10, 11, and 12 are nearly one grade of soil, viz. clay with a very inconsiderable mixture of sand, as may be indicated from the growth

of timber principally white oak, some coarse barked hickory, very little black oak, under growth plum and hazel; part of those fields I cleared, the rest was much exhausted, so much so, that some parts were said to be worn out. I have pursued the same course with these fields, as with No. 4 and the consequence is that in 1807 I made from the most exhausted of them, 14 barrels of corn to the acre, and the succeeding crop of wheat 40 bushels to each acre by actual measurement. In fact, I know no difference between that part of my field, that was said to be worn out, and such as I have cleared; all are alike capable at this time of producing in moderately good seasons, a succession of 3 or 4 crops of corn, of from 10 to 12 barrels to each acre; from 25 to 35 bushels of wheat, and from 18 to 25 of rye, I have made several crops of 40 bushels of wheat to the acre after corn. Fields No. 13, 14 and 15 are the largest part of them, of a character entirely different from either of the preceding numbers; their growth was swamp oak, maple, and a few pines, the under growth, alder; their position concave, and consequently received and retained the waters from the higher surrounding land; were thrown up into tussocks and so completely saturated with water, that with the exceptions of the most uncommon dry seasons, it remained on the surface during the whole year. How to reclaim and fertilize this boggy waste, was a source of considerable anxiety with me, especially as it lay within fifteen or twenty steps of my, then, dwelling house, and was moreover infested with myriads of pestiferous musketoes. My first essay to render useful this unpromising piece of land, was to grub the alders and to cut down the timber in order to discover what effect the exposure of this marsh to the sun and frost would have upon it. In 1797 I had every stick that grew upon 32 acres cut down, the brush heaped, and leisurely cleared off, logs, &c. This land as I had anticipated, became more absorbent; the maple and other roots which sustained the tussocks, began to decay, but how to fertilize this saturated, and almost barren soil, was still the inquiry. The absorbent and fertilizing nature of the corn stalk readily occurred to me, and accordingly in the winter of 1802—3 I had the stalks from which the tops had been cut, from at least 100 acres, cut and strewed over these 30 acres of wet land, permitting my stock of cattle, upwards of 200 head, to browse over them daily, and to trample them into the mud, if possible to the depth of 5 or 6 inches; my object, I readily perceived was effected, and the stalks were incorporated with the mud, and before the autumn of 1803 my doubts and fears in relation to my marsh, were entirely removed. I however, repeated the same process during the succeeding winter, which so effectually succeeded in drying up and levelling the stumps, that in the winter of 1804, 5, I fed ripe hay over the whole of it, to my stock which set it entirely with timothy and other grass, so that in 1806 it was fit for the scythe, and has ever since produced the most abundant crops I ever saw; in fact, it seldom, except in uncommon dry seasons, stands up until it is matured for the scythe.

My fields Number 16, 17 and 18 are the most elevated of any in the low ground, and were much inferior in their natural state to any of the preceding numbers, with the exception of the marsh just described. The growth of timber, dwarf white oak, black oak and pine, under growth hickory, &c., incapable, while fresh, of producing more than 5 to 6 barrels of corn, and 12 to 15 bushels of wheat or rye, to each acre, which now under the same process as upon my other field, produces in ordinary seasons, 10 barrels corn, 25 to 30 bu. wheat, and 18 to 23 or 4 rye, and very abundant crops of grass of all kinds. No part of my low land at this time, but will in three years entirely turf over with green sward or English grass—a strong evidence of their improved state.—My high land is in the same encouraging state of improvement.—My stock of cattle you will readily perceive, are auxiliaries to my system of improvement.—I am nevertheless an advocate for spreading the straw over the surface, in preference to its collection for the purpose of decomposition, particularly when it is spread on grain or grass; these will protect it from the effects of the sun—Take for example, straw of any kind, and in the months of November, December, or January, spread

it thick or but lightly, over a light and husky soil, such as very frequently, the winds in March blow from about the roots of the grain, add thereto a small dressing of plaster, and in the month of March, apply the roller—the straw will protect this kind of land from the ravages of the wind—will warm and invigorate the germs of grain or grass—the plaster will quicken its growth, and the roller will consolidate and give consistency to the whole and ensure a good crop.—Straw is equally beneficial to all soils and in all situations—I have spread it over my permanent meadows in winter, that have become bound with the green sward, it protects and warms the roots of the grass, forwards vegetation some 10 to 15 days earlier, is thereby itself, entirely protected from the effects of the sun—and its decomposition is gradually keeping the roots of the grass moist and cool in summer: requisites the most essential to the growth of grass. We will reverse the case and suppose for example, that well decomposed straw is spread upon a meadow, or grain field in Feb. or March as is a common practice, and a drought happens in April, which is not unusual, what in that case becomes of your compost?

Corn stalks spread upon grain or grass, are worse than nothing, unless they be broken to pieces by the cattle, or otherwise—They are of a spongy nature, and in place of giving moisture to vegetation, they absorb and rob the plant of much of its support—yet when decomposed, none can be more meliorating. I am, however, far from believing that this manure is alike well adapted to all soils. Take as a further example, manures of this character, and apply them in any way you please to a light and thirsty soil, and, what will be its effects? Certainly these are competent considerations in the art of husbandry, well worthy the attention of all.

Plaster of Paris—I commenced its use about the year 1800, and was for many years amongst its warmest devotees, believing, also like many others, that its magical power would almost force vegetation from a rock: but subsequent observations have at last brought me to a pause—Its effects with me, have certainly deteriorated, and I was willing to attribute it to any cause, rather than (perhaps) the real one. To such causes as the extreme droughts for the three or four last years, &c.—but while I am thus blind to its deleterious effects on the one hand, I see it operating in its full force on the other. For example, during the same period of drought, I find it to act with all its magic upon land that I have lately purchased, and on which little plaster had hitherto been sown.—I, however, cannot altogether yield my favourable opinion of this truck—I shall, nevertheless, in part, suspend the use of it until I can more fully satisfy myself about its effects.—Notwithstanding my doubts in relation to the effects of Plaster on some descriptions of land, yet I entertain no doubt whatever, but that there are lands on which, with judicious management, it will act beneficially for ages.—Such lands as are to be found on the east side of the Blue Mountain, extending about thirty miles eastwardly from its top, and to an immense extent up and down.—The land of that section of country, differs materially from almost any other I know of—there is a friability and sameness in that soil to an immense depth—therefore, should the plaster have any of those deleterious effects upon the surface, it will only be necessary to set the plough a little deeper to counteract it. The slate and gravelly land, I believe also to be an exception to the (at least doubtful) effects of plaster.

Clover and other Grasses—On this subject I feel well assured, that I differ with most Theorists, and perhaps many of my agricultural brethren—Clover, to be sure, is a luxuriant and beautiful crop; highly ornamental to land that produces it well; its first growth stands unrivalled for hay, and affords a tolerable fattening pasture, provided the season be not too wet, up to the middle of July or first of August—its second growth, for seed and for soiling are profitable and beneficial—but for pasture, provided there be no mixture of other grass, and also provided the season be wet, it is worse than none—it acts as a diuretic on animals that chew the cud—and completely salivates horses and hogs—I never had

corn to flourish upon clover and fallow—on the contrary—should the following be deferred until spring, the earth is then filled with myriads of injurious and destructive insects, and the corn seldom wears the same healthful appearance that it does on other fallows.—Timothy, is a good grass, and yields abundant crops of hay upon soils congenial to its nature; it flourishes best, and lasts much longest when sown on a moist virgin soil—its meliorating effects upon the soil, are inferior to almost any other grass—worth but little as pasture, by reason of its not repeating, or re-producing in the same season.—The orchard grass affords good hay and pasturage, but what its effects are upon the soil, I know not,—it is always (with me) mixed with other grass—I have no experience in the herds and several other grasses.—Blue grass, so called, and I know no other name for it, is a fattening and beneficial grass to the grazier; it acts as an antidote to the effects of clover, but is a pest, if injudiciously managed, to the farmer.—White clover is a production of nature—That bountiful Giver, seldom produces any thing which properly used, is detrimental to man. The only possible objection to this grass is, that its duration is too short.—Green sward, or English grass is, also understood to be a native, (at least of this country). In this grass are all the good qualities combined, that grass can possibly possess. It affords the earliest and most fattening pasture of any other grass. The hay made from it is inferior to none, and although the bulk may be less from the acre, I feel well assured on a fair experiment, that the strength is at least equal to that of any other grass. It, like other grasses, ripens and loses its verdure in mid-summer, but so long as a spire of it remains, so long will cattle fatten on it. It affords the latest and richest fall pasture of all other grasses, and when ploughed up, then at once its superior excellency is clearly developed.—Grain of every description grows luxuriantly after it, no pestilential insect infesting the plant, and its meliorating effects are permanent and unequalled.

Wheat—With the several kinds of this grain, I am not so familiar as those are who have given their undivided attention to it. I, however, have made trials of the several kinds of wheat introduced into this country, (Lawler, &c.) and am on the whole, induced to believe that the mystery in making good crops, lays in the proper situation of seeds, their adaptation to the soil and climate they have to grow in, and in the preparation of soil to receive them. Since the year 1809, I have sowed principally the same kind of wheat, viz:—an early ripe white, with a firm stalk, a well sized head, closely set, a full grain, weighing 60 to 62 lbs. per bushel, yielding fine crops and beautiful clean straw, seldom injured by rust, and none I have ever tried, so well adapted to my soil.—In 1819, part of my wheat fell down early in the season, so that the grain was much shrivelled—weighed not more than 50 lbs. to the bushel.—From this grain I selected my seed, and as usual steeped it in lye 24 hours—I also at the same time, sowed a few bushels of prime wheat of the preceding year's growth, under the same process—there was no difference in the wheat produced from the old or new seed, each in quality was as good as I ever made, and in quantity from 35 to 40 bushels to each acre—I have steeped my wheat in lye for the last five or six years, as a preventive against smut, and am induced to believe, it has had the desired effect; especially as many of my neighbours are much injured by that disaster in wheat, while mine is entirely free from it. A very good farmer in the adjoining county (Buckingham) followed my course in 1818, of steeping his seed wheat in lye; he, with a view to test its effects, sowed one land about the centre of his field in the usual way,—the result was, that in all the growing wheat from that grain which had been steeped, not one head of smut was to be found; whilst multitudes were to be seen in that which had not been steeped; and, moreover, that from the steeped seed, stood much thicker on the ground, was better headed, and grew very perceptibly taller.

NEAT CATTLE—None of the stock kind, so justly merits our attention as neat cattle. We eat

them, we milk them, and we work them; therefore in interest and gratitude we are bound to treat them well.

The efforts made in this part of Virginia to improve this stock have been considerable, but I am far from believing effectual; whether from injudicious selections, or what other cause, I cannot say—though sure I am, that our stock are not improving—I look back, for example, to the period at which the first English stock was introduced into this section of Virginia, which was about 30 to 35 years ago, by a son of Mathew Patton, who resided then in Baltimore, in which place, or its vicinity, he purchased an English bull, which he sent to his father on the South Branch of Potowmac. The cross produced by this bull upon the native stock, possessed all the qualities desirable in neat cattle. The bull, or some of his immediate descendants, fell into the hands of Mr. Miller, a wealthy citizen of Augusta County, Va. who at considerable expence and trouble, made several other importations of English bulls. To cross upon this Patton stock, last of all, Mr. Sprigg of Maryland, imported for Mr. Miller, a large cow of the short horned breed (said to be the milk breed;) next a bull of the same Stock, each of which Mr. Sprigg, in his lifetime, told me cost one hundred guineas, freightage, &c., this importation has manifestly injured our stock, particularly when they have been bred in and in. Their size becomes enormous, and coarse in the extreme, so that it is at an immense expence and difficulty that they can be fattened at all; at least, under the age of seven or eight years; and when fat, their beef uncommonly coarse and unsaleable in market. There was also a stock introduced on the South Branch, said to be imported by Mr. Gough, in or near Baltimore, which likewise do not breed in and in well. Do not these faults go far in support of the opinion, that all nature's productions, as well in the animal, as vegetable creation, cannot alike adapt themselves to all climates? I am borne out in this opinion by an English writer in Doctor Ree's Cyclopaedia, wherein he says—"In regard to cattle of our own country, as they are not less numerous in their varieties than those of the foreign kinds, and of much more importance to the farmer in a variety of different points of view, but particularly in that of profit; the greatest care and attention should obviously be bestowed on the breeding, rearing, and providing such sorts as are the best suited to the particular nature of the farm, or land on which they are to be supported and as no one particular breed is suitable for every situation or kind of farm, much circumspection should be employed in adapting them to the peculiar nature of the climate, situation and soil." We have a further illustration of this fact, in the hogs called Parkason hogs; I happened in Alexandria, when that importation landed in 1800 and 1801. I considered them the most perfect animals of the kind, I had ever seen and their first cross on our native hogs was equally perfect, but after breeding in and in, they degenerate into a character, vastly inferior to either of the original kinds. No fault in husbandry am I better convinced of, than that it is absolutely necessary in order to propagate a perfect stock of neat cattle a judicious admixture of our native stock ought to be strictly adhered to. My experience and traffick in neat cattle, have been extensive—my purchases are upwards of 600 head per year, part of which I send directly on to market; 150 to 200 head of this number I keep as store cattle, and winter them on my rough food—60 head of the smallest of those are selected and prepared in the manner already described, for a June market the balance of my store cattle are grazing up to about the 25th August; when, out of my various purchases, I select the best ones to add to the home stock, making the number of 250 to 300 head, which I fatten for market in the following manner, viz:—about the 25th of August, I divide my stock into three or more equal parcels, and turn them on my leanest pasture, or stubble field, and immediately commence cutting my green corn by the roots, now going out of the milky state, and feed it to my beesves, first at the rate of 8 hills per day, then encreasing their food as I find they will

beast, up to 16 hills, of 4 stalks in each hill, per day, to each head, taking care, always, that their feed shall be so regulated as that they shall nearly eat the whole of the corn stalks, which at this season of the year contain an abundance of rich saccharine matter, so remarkable for its fattening qualities, and which is entirely lost if permitted to dry in the field. My fattening hogs are so arranged as that I can turn them in with my cattle, each day at about 2 o'clock, as the bees feed a second time in the day on the fodder and stalks at about 12 to 1 o'clock; my hogs in number, 75 to 100, are then turned with my cattle, in order to glean the remaining corn stalks, and to root and eat much of the excrements of the bees, and are in the evening, before any cattle are fed, removed. I continue feeding my bees in this way so long as the corn stalks retain their succulent state, which in ordinary seasons, is up to the 15th or 20th of October, by which time my cattle are fit for any market, and my hogs nearly fat, also; all from not more than 15 to 20 acres of corn. My fall pastures, during the feeding process, are permitted to grow undisturbed, and by the 20th of October, are in a condition to again receive my bees, and with the addition of but very little meal, or grain they are kept thriving until I send them to market. On the failure of my grass, I commence feeding with hay and corn meal, mixed with wheat chaff, &c.

OXEN.—The farmers of this country make little or no use of them; they are nevertheless, valuable and useful, and ought to be much more in use than they are; in fact, where negroes are the entire labourers, reliance ought to be placed on the ox for draft—the saving in their grazing and tackling is of vast importance, especially amongst those wasteful and destructive people. I have used them, but as they cannot be relied on so well as horses, in the cultivation of my corn, &c. have discontinued their use.

Horses are by no means a profitable stock but so habituated are we to the use of those animals, that we cannot proceed on our system of agriculture without them; our produce is, the greater part of it, wagoned to market, and the same horses that are necessary to haul the product of a farm to market, are, generally, sufficient to cultivate the same farm.

SHEEP. when well managed, are useful and profitable. If well fed through the winter, they yield double the quantity of wool, and of a strong and better texture, are earlier fitted for slaughter, and therefore, we are in turn, the more abundantly fed and clothed by them. I purchase of this stock, every fall, from 100 to 120 head; they range over my pastures during the winter, and are well fed on grain; in the month of March they are shorn and sent to market in high perfection.

The number of bushels of grain made to each of my working hands. I have never had curiosity enough to ascertain. My regular force, however, on my farm, are ten hands, occasionally calling in some aid, particularly in harvest, hay-making, fodder saving, &c.—Those ten hands with 12 to 14 horses, cultivate from 180 to 200 acres of corn, and not less than 150 of wheat and rye; my corn yields on an average 50 bushels per acre—my wheat and rye not less than 25 bushels to each acre, making an aggregate of 12,750 bushels of grain per annum. This estimate, I know to be short of the actual quantity made, exclusive of hay, flax, &c. &c.—the same ten hands thrash my grain, haul out my straw, and feed my stock in the fall, winter and spring; besides, one of them does all my black-smithing, another my rough shoe making, a third, my rough carpentering. My soil, however, it would be observed, is in good heart—I have no hindrance in hauling out manures, except from my stables, neither am I pestered with those people called overseers. My negroes are fed and clothed as labourers ought to be, they are comfortably lodged in houses with stone chimneys: they are auxiliaries in my agricultural success, and in conscience, I feel myself bound to recompense them. I find also, like other men, they are endowed with minds capable of reflection and investigation; give them fair play, and I entertain no doubt, but that they will manage as well as nine tenths of those that are occupied to

drive them; therefore, policy, and humanity dictate the propriety of elevating the nature and condition of those people, as much, at least as they will consistently bear. My creed, as an agriculturist, is to make the greatest possible product, from the least possible labour, &c. A farm or individual, supporting a large, and oftentimes useless, auxiliary force may justly be compared to a nation supporting a large and useless standing army; bankruptcy, sooner or late, is the inevitable consequence. Thus in my crude way, have I replied, in part, to your several enquiries in relation to my farm, its arrangements &c. &c. relying upon your experience to prepare them for the public eye.

There are subjects connected with your unanswered enquiries on husbandry and rural economy; that might in detail, be worth a place in your justly esteemed work, "The American Farmer," but I have been already too prolix, and am tired of writing; moreover, farmers are entirely out of their element when scribbling.

Very respectfully,

Your fellow citizen,

W. S. S.

P. S.—I send you, herewith, one number of the Agricultural Museum, containing the weight, &c. of a bullock of my own raising, which I exhibited at the cattle show at Washington, in 1811.

This bullock, was the first calf of a mixed blooded heifer, his sire was raised by Mr. Miller of Augusta County, and was sold by him at six months old, for one hundred dollars. I gave that sum for him at four years old—he was also the first calf of a celebrated heifer of Mr. Miller's, which was out of the short horned imported cow, and got by a bull of the long horned breed; I bred from this bull on cows of an improved stock, as also from cows of our native stock, they were all perfect in their form, but those from the native cow had an aptitude to fatten, which those from the improved cows did not possess in so high a degree. From this bull, and one of my best cows, I raised a bull, which on breeding in and in, I evidently saw that my stock degenerated, (not in size) but in disposition to fatten, yet, whenever he crossed upon native cows, the stock therefrom, was perfect. With a knowledge of these facts, were I about to propagate a desirable stock, I would first select a number of well formed native cows, on which I would breed from a bull of the largest stock of England or America, taking care, always, to retain at least one fourth part of the native stock, which could rarely fail to correct or counteract that disposition to coarseness, naturally attendant on all the English cattle that I have ever seen.

Your's,

W. S.

[The following letter to the Editor, is from an highly valued friend, an officer of the Columbus, and was not intended to meet the public eye. We, however, take the responsibility of presenting it to our readers without the name of the writer—a name which, if subjoined, would give it additional interest with all who have the happiness to enjoy his acquaintance.—Here again let us emphatically congratulate the friends of Agriculture, on the generous and lively, and increasing interest which has of late years been manifested by our naval officers in the agriculture of our country. Not a ship returns from abroad that does not bring with her, valuable contributions to our stock of agricultural materials and intelligence.—Great and lasting will be the benefits that must accrue to our country from this provident and praise-worthy disposition amongst the intelligent officers of our navy—Benefit, in which a discerning mind will discover ample remuneration for the whole expense of that establishment.—We will not pass by this opportunity of again suggesting, though not in a manner worthy of its importance, the propriety of providing out of some special fund—a small select library, for the use of the officers of each ship—to consist of elementary works on Botany, Natural History, with voyages, travels, &c. &c. Having these sources of amusement and means of edification at hand.—

Young officers would have recourse to them, instead of other, and oftentimes deleterious amusements—a taste for books, and a habit of research, would insensibly grow upon them—which united with the advantages of travel into every clime in the public service, would infallibly make the most of our officers, what many of them now are, an ornament to every society, and an honour to their country.

Editor.]

Columbus, Port Mahon, Island of }
Minorca, Feb. 27, 1821. }

DEAR SIR—Your obliging letter (no date) reached me at this place yesterday, and afforded me much pleasure. Among the papers which you were so good as to send me, was one containing your address to the Agricultural Society, which I have just read with high satisfaction. Your eulogy on the mule I doubt not is well deserved. In our country they are generally badly broke, half starved and seldom curried or stabled.

At Gibraltar I saw some of fine size and form, and as fat and sleek as your dray horses. They are used by the most dashy officers, for the saddle, and appeared to move very pleasantly. In Maryland, a gentleman never thinks of riding a mule—He would be laughed at—such is the force of prejudice!—I am of opinion that such mules as I speak of (14½ & 15 hands high) are more proper for private carriages, if not public stages, than horses. They are true, not easily alarmed, great trotters, very hardy, and may be kept at one half the expense.—No one is a greater admirer of that noble animal the horse, than myself—I have owned some very fine ones—but I am, by experience, and a regard to truth compelled to say, that he is very expensive, and has been the ruin of many a thoughtless young buck in our country.—I was much struck by the comparison which I once made of the expense of feeding a man and a horse.—The allowance for a labourer in Maryland is a peck of corn, and three and a half pounds of salt meat per week—which is not sufficient (supposing hay to be bought with the meat) to feed a horse properly, more than one day.

I found on inquiry, that the fine mules I speak of are the produce of the horse and the ass. This is a mode of propagating them quite new to me, and I am assured it is incomparably the best.—If so, it is an important fact, which ought to be known to all breeders, as she asses can be kept much cheaper than brood mares.

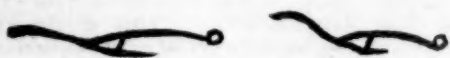
Asses and mules are used here for the plough, the saddle, and particularly for burdens—there being no carts, or any kind of wheel carriages in the Island.—The loads they carry is wonderful.—Had I not made the experiment I should never have believed the ass fit for the saddle. I have rode them frequently, and found them very pleasant and more suitable to a hilly and stoney country than the horse—I rode one about twenty-four miles in one day.

The Stock Farm you speak of will, I doubt not, be an excellent, and, I hope, profitable establishment.—I fear it will not be in my power to be of much use to you in that way—our movements are so rapid that I have little opportunity of looking out for stock. I calculate upon taking home a male jack, and a pair of the cream coloured Tuscan cattle, so famous for the yoke. Should I meet with such a horse as

You describe, I shall add him to my stud. I do not believe, however, that there is a finer breed of horses in the world, for the saddle, than the *Tom* breed in your neighbourhood, and I would recommend to you, to procure a stallion of the pure blood.

I am of opinion that the ox, for farming purposes, is superior to all other animals. In our part of the country he seldom has a fair chance, and it is no wonder that he is not a favourite. I saw many of the Tuscany oxen at work, at Leghorn and Naples. They are tall, not thick-set, and remarkably docile. In Talbot county of Maryland, they have, I think, the same breed. It is known by the name of Boardley's—and were, if I mistake not, imported by the patriotic gentleman of that name, who, some thirty years ago, wrote on agriculture and rural economy. They are much esteemed there for the draught. You may easily procure some of them if you think proper. The late colonel Smyth and Mr. Singleton had a number of them—and my brother Edward, had a bull of that breed which he esteemed highly.

I sent home some beautiful white wheat last summer from Leghorn, and if I have an opportunity, I will procure more of it. I shall take several barrels of the seed of the *Lupinella*, which is much esteemed in Italy. You already have this seed; but it is not yet abundant. My friend, Mr. Folsom, has brought me a number of seeds of various kinds, from Smyrna—among others the seed of pears and melons of a very superior kind.—I have been promised some information respecting the agriculture of this Island, by our Consul, an extensive landholder—but his numerous avocations, will, I expect, put it out of his power to furnish it. The country is hilly and rocky. The plough used by these industrious people is very simple, and suits their land. It is formed of *two pieces*, one the handle, the other the *beam*, thus :



It is pointed with a piece of iron, with a socket, resembling an ox's horn straightened—it has no share, no mould board—but a peg or station on each side, inclining outwards, intended to spread a furrow. A man follows (when seeding) digging and levelling, where necessary, with a short handled hoe, something like a pick-axe. After he is done, the ground looks like an onion-bed. To prevent their lands from washing they make stone walls round the steep hills, which are cultivated to the tops—even mount Toro, which I visited, more than 2000 feet high, is not an exception. Wheat and barley are their principal grain crops—they raise all kinds of vegetables and fruits—figs, grapes, oranges, lemons, peaches, pears, apricots, and, what is singular in this country, excellent apples. Every thing is sold by weight—even fire wood, which is very scarce.

I was much struck with the oddity of some of their teams. Sometimes we met with an ass and a cow yoked together—then a mule and an ox, and sometimes a mule and an ass—some teams were of oxen and others of mules, as with you. (The yoke and bow are used, not only for oxen, but for mules and asses.) Strange

as these associations are, they are nothing to that mentioned by Dr. Cleghorn, who wrote 50 years ago. He speaks of the *hog* and *heifer*! but I think he must have been mistaken.

The tenant here farms on shares. The landlord stocks the farm. Nothing is sold but by his permission, after which the proceeds, in money, is brought to him, just as received.—He divides it into two piles, and gives the farmer his choice—at stated periods the tenant has to deliver to the proprietor, a fat sheep, bullock, hog, &c. as may be agreed upon. The people, generally speaking, are miserably poor—hardly ever taste meat of any kind, and are covered with rags, filth and vermin. Every thing I have seen in this country, even the best part of it, has tended to make me think more highly of my own, and when I get home I calculate upon being a pretty good patriot. With the industry of these people, our country might be made a Paradise. We are too apt to overrate the “old countries,” and to imagine that they are happier and wiser than our own. When we hear of *grapes* and *oranges*, and *wines* as cheap as cider, we think of the Garden of Eden. In some parts of the Mediterranean, the country is delightful—the soil rich and the climate delicious;—but the government is execrable—and the morals of the people corrupted.

In Italy they have the advantage of us in a few particulars—climate, and fruits of a particular kind. But what can be finer than the fruits of our country? our strawberries, our raspberries, gooseberries, cranberries, huckleberries, blackberries and many others of the berry family? Our apples, peaches, plums, &c. are, or ought to be equal to any in the world.—What country excels us in beef, pork, mutton, poultry, &c.? Is there any part of the globe which equals us in *oysters* and *bacon*?—and in what part of Europe is *Hominy* known? If I had no other objection, this last would be insuperable to me—I would not live in any country where I could not get this dish. The beef of this Island is very indifferent—quite insipid.—In Tuscany the meats are good—the mutton in particular.—I have heard of one of our countrymen, a Kentuckian, who came out to see Europe. He landed on the high, rugged hills of Spain, opposite to Gibraltar, and, looking round with astonishment, asked “is this your boasted Europe?”—“I have a better country at home.” So he very wisely returned without going any further.

We are on the eve of sailing from this place, for some part of Italy, and it is with some difficulty that I find time to write you this hasty letter, and beg you to make due allowance for my situation.—I send you a few extracts, to be used as you may think proper—they were made several weeks ago.

ON MILLET.

[Proceedings of the Agricultural Society of Albemarle,—No. 2.]

(READ, May 7, 1821.)

SPOTSYLVANIA, 7th December, 1821.

My crop of Millet did not quite answer my expectations. One and a half acres yielded 31½ bushels, equal to 21 to the acre. The land was old and unimproved. Its maximum yield of corn would have been 3 barrels.

The weight of millet is 55½ pounds per bushel, and by the best possible test, viz : the scales, I find that the husk, or outer covering, is equal to 13½ per cent. being a net of 48 lbs. per bushel, nearly.

I have already used 12 or 15 bushels as food for stock. An ox fed on corn and millet meal, of equal quantities, thrives as fast as any beef I have ever seen. On the 22d ult. I weighed two pigs, to appearance, of equal size, and both equally thriving. The weight of one was 110 pounds, that of the other, 115 pounds. The first I put into a pen by himself, and fed him entirely on millet, boiled, or in meal. The other was fed on boiled corn, and corn-meal, with my other fattening hogs. Both eat ad libitum. To day I killed them. The net weight of the one fed on millet is 102 lbs.—that of the other, 86 pounds. The difference in their weight is truly surprising!!!

Is the millet much more nutritious than corn? Will a hog gain more in a given time, alone, than with company? I am inclined to answer both questions in the affirmative.

I am engaged in a pretty extensive course of experiments to ascertain the full value of millet, as a grain; the result of which I shall hereafter report. Next year I intend to plant ten acres in it. In the mean time, I can confidently say it is a grain of great value, and I anticipate the day when it will be generally cultivated—not as a staple, at least as an auxiliary crop.

We use the meal of millet as a substitute for chocolate, and really, I think it greatly superior to any substitute with which I am acquainted—“prepared rye” not excepted. I shall send some to Mr. Skinner, with directions how to make it,* and will, with pleasure, furnish you, or any of your friends, with any moderate quantity of it, if you wish to make trial of it in your family, or to plant it another year.

I am, perhaps, too sanguine, but I hope hereafter to convince the community that millet is a grain which in rural and domestic economy, yields to none of which we are in possession—not even CORN.

With much esteem,

BENJ. COLMAN.

P. MINOR, Esq.

* Note by the Editor.—The millet, roasted and ground, came safe to hand, and was prepared for use, according to Mr. Colman's directions—to wit: “Boil two or three table spoons full in three pints of water, add thereto, one pint, or somewhat less of milk, and a piece of butter the size of a nutmeg. Strain, or carefully decant and sweeten it to suit the palate.” At breakfast, a pitcher full of this American chocolate was sent, with Mrs. S's compliments, as a neighbourly offering of real chocolate. At dinner time, the mistress of the family happened in, and returned many thanks for the “nice chocolate,” never having suspected but that it was chocolate in fact! A young gentleman from the Eastern Shore of Maryland, a great lover of chocolate, very cordially swallowed the imposition. I must confess that I thought I could have told the difference; but there is much difficulty in deceiving a man if he be advertised of the intention. Epicures have been made to eat mutton, which they despised, for excellent beef steak, and we have heard an anecdote of a *French cook*, who being incensed with his master, deluded him into the consumption of his old leather breeches, for *tripe* of exquisite quality and flavor.

P. S.—On consideration, it appears to me impossible that the difference in the gain of the two pigs mentioned above, could be so great.—The net weight is certainly accurate, but I think I must have been inaccurate in weighing them alive. Neither of them could be kept perfectly at rest—and hence an error might have been made. At any rate, the one fed on millet, fatted faster than any hog I ever saw—far exceeding any of my hogs.

Extract of another Letter, from Doctor Colman, dated

JANUARY 11th, 1821.

The two hogs mentioned in my last, with which I made experiments in fattening, may be stated as of equal weight when put in the pens. My neighbours however, who saw them then, are of opinion that the one fed on millet was the smaller.

110 lbs. gross	36½ being ¼ the weight	73½ net, when put up	102 pounds	73½	28½ lbs. gain in 15 days	86 lbs.	73½	12½ gain in 15 days.
Estimate them at	Deduct for loss, &c.	Net weight of that fed on Millet, when killed	Deduct	Net weight of that fed on Corn	Deduct as above			

The gain of the first is unprecedented—that of the other not small.

My ox, I fed five weeks, on equal parts of corn and millet meal, and then slaughtered him. He was prime beef, fit for any market—wt. 565 pounds, net.

Horses and stock of every kind eat millet meal freely, and I am still of opinion that its nutritive qualities are equal, if not superior, to any other grain. I shall spare no pains to make myself acquainted with every thing relative to millet. One circumstance with respect to its growth, I never noticed till within a few days, which I conceive of no small importance. The roots, instead of spreading out laterally like corn, extend perpendicularly to a considerable depth, like tap rooted plants.

Hence, the drought will not affect it much, and it will not be so great an exhauster as corn, nor will it require so much work.

With much respect and esteem,

BENJ. COLMAN.

P. MINOR, Esq. ALBEMARLE.

From the Irish Farmers Journal, of December 31, 1821.

On the superiority of the improved Short Horned over the Long Horned breed of Cattle.

THERE is no task more arduous than that of proving the general sentiments of a body of men, rest not on truth but prejudice, since custom, after a long course of years, frequently acquires a stronger possession of the mind than the most conclusive reasoning can remove.—On this account, in proving the absolute and relative superiority of the Short Horned over the Long Horned Breed of Cattle, I feel fully aware my statement will be examined by a large proportion of the breeders of cattle, graziers, and farmers in your kingdom, with doubt, suspicion, or perhaps contempt.

I wish my arguments to be fully canvassed, from a complete conviction my only object is to disseminate truth, and not falsehood, and that the first always acquires new strength and clearness from opposition.

It will appear that the following account of the origin of the improved Long Horned, that an early attachment to our own breed of cattle, ought to have influenced my mind in their favor, and nothing but demonstration itself could have induced me to change my opinion.

Many years before Mr. Bakewell exercised his great talents at improvement, Sir Thomas Glasby had selected from Lancashire and Westmoreland, a herd of the best shaped cows. Certain descendants of these were afterwards purchased on the banks of the Trent, and introduced into Warwickshire, by Mr. Webster, of Canley, whence originated the Canley breed. The breed of the county were already long-horned, but far inferior to those introduced by Mr. Webster. Bakewell commenced with Canley cows, and a bull from Westmoreland, called Twopenny. After breeding in and in, selecting individuals of the roundest form and soundest bone, he attained his desired success, in raising a variety highly celebrated for its propensity to fatten. The reality of the Bakewellian improvement of neat cattle for the graziers purpose, ought to be indubitable, from the unprecedented prices given in the midland districts. Mr. Bakewell's bull, Twopenny, covered at five guineas each cow, and he had many cows worth 30 guineas each. All his bulls were engaged, after a course of some years improvement, for the season, from five to thirty guineas each, according to their form. Mr. Fowler of Rotwright, Oxfordshire, was the earliest and most successful disciple of Bakewell. He commenced with two Canley cows, for which he engaged the bull Twopenny; the produce, two cows, long horned, Beauty, and Old Nell. In 1778, he had a bull of Bakewell, named D. the sire of Shakespeare. With what success he bred entirely from his own stock, appears from the prices obtained by auction in the year 1791. The following sales are perfectly correct. The first in 1791, the last in 1810, which prove beyond a doubt that the Short Horned breed, when improved, bring higher prices than the Long Horned, after every deduction is made for the depreciation of money during that period.

The account of Fowler's sale is taken from Mr. Lawrence's Treatise on Cattle, and is as follows—

BULLS.		
Garrick, 5 years old,	-	£250
Sultan, 2 do.	-	230
Washington, 2 do.	-	215
A. by Garrick, 1 year old,	-	157
Young Sultan, ditto,	-	210
E. by Garrick, ditto,	-	152

The following statement was sent me by a friend in the neighbourhood of Darlington, and I know it to be correct.

Prices at the sale of Mr. Charles Collings, of Ketton, on the 11th and 12th October, 1810.

BULLS.		Guineas.	Got by.
Comet, 6 years old, out of Phenix—Messrs. Trotter, Wetherall & Wright, purchasers,	1000	Favourite.	
Major, 3 years old, out of Lady—Mr. Grant, purchaser,	200	Comet.	

Petrarch, 2 years old, out of Venus,	-	365	ditto.
Alfred, 1 do.	do.		
Venus,	-	110	ditto.
Duke, 1 do. out of Dutchess,		105	ditto.
Young Favourite, out of Countess, a calf,	-	140	ditto.
George, ditto, out of Lady,	-	130	ditto.
Cecil, out of Peeress, a calf,	-	170	ditto.

Prices of the Cows at Mr. Fowler's Sale:

	£	s.	d.
Brinded Beauty, by Shakespeare,	273	0	0
Sister to Garrick,	120	0	0
Nell by ditto,	136	0	0
Young Nell,	126	0	0
Black Heifer,	141	0	0
Dam of Washington,	194	0	0

53 Head of Cattle, produced at Mr.

Fowler's sale, 4289 4 6

61 ditto, ditto, at Mr. Charles

Colling's, 7379 8 0

Cows sold at Mr. Colling's sale.

	Guineas.
Countess,	400
Lady,	206
Laura,	210
Lilly,	410
Lucilla, out of Laura, a heifer calf,	106
Celina, out of Countess, by Favourite,	200

It hence appears that the public sale of Mr. Charles Colling's, which was injured by the circumstance of some of his cattle having been crossed with Highlanders, brought much higher prices than Mr. Fowler's, and affords a strong argument in favour of their superiority. Mr. Mason has let his best bull this season for 260 guineas. It is evident from a perusal of the reports from our best grazing counties, that the improved short horned are more highly valued than any other breed.

Having given an account of the prices for which the short horned breed were sold, at the respective sales of two of the most eminent breeders of their varieties of cattle, it remains to contrast the weight of the two varieties.

In the early propensity of the improved Short Horned to fatten, every doubt must be fully removed, since Mr. Lawrence, who appears an advocate for the Long Horned, makes no mention of any Long Horned steer being fat at the age of two years. He says—"Mr. Princeps killed a four years old steer, which weighed 248st.—14lb. to the stone—exclusive of 25 st. of fat—Hide weighed 177lb." This is the only weight of any long horned steer he mentions, and surpasses in weight any of the short horned mentioned by Bailey.

In the same work he states Shakespeare sold at Mr. Padget's sale, for 400 guineas, in 1795, and his stock brought from 50 to 80 guineas each. Mr. Arrowsmith has lately rated one of his two years old steers to the weight of 160 stone, which is a much greater return than Mr. Princeps's. He has long been an improver of the short horned.

Independent of any arguments drawn from the superior prices, more than double, of the improved short horned over the long horned, the fact that the late George Culley, esq. after commencing with the long horned, changed for the improved Teeswater, must carry considerable weight with every one to whom his character is known. He travelled with Mr. Bakewell many years, and from him acquired his knowledge of breeding. He was attached to the long horned stock of cattle, and Dishley breed of sheep, with his master.

The last stock he introduced into Northumberland, from Dishley, and has enriched that country amazingly by it. He had renounced the long horned some years before his death, from a conviction that the improved short horned were more lucrative, in consequence of their early propensity to fatten.

His sale proved he had by no means equalled Mr. Collings or Mason in his improvement. Had he commenced at an earlier period, such was his knowledge of stock, it cannot be doubted he would have raised one of the best in the north of England.

Whether we consider the conduct of one of the earliest of Bakewell's scholars—the astonishing prices the Teeswater cattle have been sold for—their very early propensity to fatten, and the small quantity of food they consume in proportion to their weight—the inference that they ought to be introduced into every stock district cannot be doubted.

If the question is put, by what means can the breed be introduced into your kingdom, since some of the present improvers refuse to sell any? I would answer, purchase those which have been bred for some years with the best bulls in the district near Darlington, and endeavour by proper selection and choice, to form for yourselves, with care and attention, a breed which in time may perhaps not fall much short of theirs.—To effect this, Societies of rich capitalists should be formed, chiefly by landed proprietors, for the express purpose of introducing these, and every other profitable and valuable breed into the country. When this has been accomplished, they ought not to act merely like monopolists, but disseminate them to the utmost of their ability. In this view the Earl of Lonsdale may be considered one of our most useful improvers in this county, since he sells to his tenants his short horned stock, some of which were purchased at Mr. Charles Colling's sale, for fair prices.

We are happy to observe so much attention paid to stock, in the account of the show of cattle given in your paper, and trust a co-operation amongst the friends of the breeding interest in Ireland, will soon place you in a situation to cope with this kingdom. Providence has in general been more liberal to your nation than to ours, and if you are not wanting to yourselves, the time is not far distant when the glory of Ireland will equal, if not surpass, that of any other country.

It has gratified us highly to observe the improvement of your present race of Long Horned steers, and trust no exertion will be wanting to carry to the highest state of perfection every part of your agricultural and rural economy.

A sincere well wisher to your kingdom,
P. SIBSON.

Canonby, Maryport.

BERGAMI—HIS STOCK, &c. &c.
Extract from a letter, to the Editor, dated
JULY, 1821.

Bergami was calved in May, 1819, he ran with his dam until November, was fed three times a day with hay, two quarts of ruta бага, and half an handful of Indian meal throughout the winter—in April he was put upon Old Sward—since December he has had ruta бага meal, or shorts, in small quantities as before.

I attribute his extraordinary weight, fine bone, round barrel, long frame, deep chine, broad buttock, thin horns, small tail, clean chaps, wide chest, and docile disposition, to the well established characteristics of his race.

I have not the slightest doubt, that his progeny will be marked by the excellence of the cow, and the singular points of the bull from which he sprang; although, as I have repeatedly said to you, I never have, and never will pledge my veracity for the purity or pedigree of any family of animals, as it must often depend upon circumstances and accidents, which no man can control. But I honestly think, that on the Banks of the Tees, surrounded by the descendants of Comet, Bergami would be exceedingly admired.

The following extract will show that his family have all the claims of a long line of distinguished ancestry.

"MAY 25th, 1821.—Sir, I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from you on the subject of

"cattle and sheep, and agree with your description of the different breeds of cattle in the North of England; I think it a more exact detail of the different points, than any I have heard—our cattle have stood the test for a long time. My father made two importations—the first a bull (full brother to the Barningham ox) and two cows—the next year he again imported a cow with calf, this was a bull—the cattle, though of the same kind of stock, were unconnected as to relationship—through this means we have kept the breed pure by attention in crossing."

The Barningham ox of five years, (according to Bailey's Survey of Durham) weighed 150 stones and 4 lbs.—16 lbs. to the stone=2404 pounds, free from tallow, hide and offal—his tallow weighed sixteen stone=256 pounds.

Flora, the dam of Bergami is but four years old—she received the male at ten months—produced her second calf in August last—within a week she will have a third. She has been regularly milked, and now yields generally two quarts at a "meal," although she is allowed to graze but five hours a day, lest she should become too fat to calve safely. Sophie, an heifer of the same stock, lost her first calf in April, from excess of fat: although killed in extraction, it weighed 104 pounds. Notwithstanding the injury she received, she has regularly given, as well as can be ascertained, by repeated measurement with a stamped mug, from 19 to 21 quarts of rich milk, free from froth. Nell, another of the same breed, two years old in April last, calved in March, and has since yielded from 19 to 20 quarts a day. Countess, her mother, gave milk on the night of the birth of her last calf.

According to Wilkinson, and the most successful English breeders, the great object to be attained was the union in the same animal, of the disposition towards copious secretions of milk, with tendency to form fat when dry. Sophie, though so fat as to cause the death of her calf, and Nell, who was scarcely thinner, are now so poor as to excite the sarcasm of a diletante farmer, who accused me of starving them.

CURWEN.

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, JULY 27, 1821.

By a mistake of the Editor in arranging the copy for the printer last week, the dimensions of the Bakewell bull with which it was intended to compare the Alderney calf, were omitted; by reference to that number page 155 this comparison may now be made.

BAKEWELL CALF.

	Feet.	In.
Length . . .	6	—
Height . . .	4	2½
Do. behind . .	4	4½
Girth . . .	5	5½
Do. around the flank	5	4½

Weight 784

"Bakewell though of fine form was yet the smallest of the breed now at Hampton, and had never been pushed. It is sufficient however to prove what the Alderney are capable of becoming under judicious management."

Note by the Editor. The Bakewell cattle appear to be entirely abandoned in England not a word in relation to them in their agricultural journals. The contest is between the Short Horns and the Herefords

and the Devons—but at a late Eng. cattle Show, the first one held by the Board of Agriculture, Lady Ongley took a premium of 30l. for her Alderney Bull. The Bakewell cattle were found to lay all their fat on the outside, they do not "marble." The Cows go dry early, and often miss being with calf, and the bullock does not come to maturity so early as the short horn. It is thought that if Bakewell had selected the Holstein instead of the broad horn stock, to build his improvements upon, his great labours and his science would have been more advantageously employed.

RUTA BAGA.

We understand that Mr. Curwen writes from England to his friend at Washington, that a crop of Ruta Baga lately produced *thirty-two and a quarter tons of tops per acre*, on a field of 40 acres: and his friend dwells very justly, we think, upon the great value of the turnip crop, as an immense source of food for cattle, and manure for land.

PRICES CURRENT.

Flour from the wagons, \$4 25 a 4 62½—Whiskey from do. 26 cts. exclusive of barrel—Wheat, white, 90 cents—Red, do. 85 a 87 cents—Corn, 42 a 44—Oats, 27 a 30—Rye, 40 a 41—Hay, per ton, \$18 a 19—Straw, do. \$9—Cod fish, per quintal, wholesale, \$3, retail 3 50 a \$4—New-England Beans per bushel, \$1 12½—ditto Peas, 75 cents—Plaster in stone \$6 per ton—do, ground, \$1 35 per barrel, 33 cts. per bushel, \$8 per ton—New-Orleans sugar, \$9 to 12 50—Muscovado, do. \$9 a 12—American White Lead, \$12 50—Ground do. 13 a 14—Linseed Oil, 75 cents—Feathers, 40 a 45 cents—Shad, new, \$6—Herrings, \$2 a \$1 25, declining—Fine Salt, 55 cts. per b. Ground Alum do. 55 a 60—St Ubes, 60—Cadiz, 50 a 55—Turks-Island, 75—Live Cattle, \$5 a 5 50—Beef, 8 to 10 cts, Hams, 10 a 12 cents—Middlings, 13 cents—Butter, 25 cents—Peas 50 cents per bushel—Eggs, 12½ cents—Cheese 8 a 10 cents per pound—Tar \$1 30—Turpentine, 1 87½ a 2—Pitch 2½—Rosin, common, \$1½, bright do. \$3 per barrel—Varnish, 25 cents—Spirits Turpentine, 33 cents per gallon—Cotton, (good Upland) 14 a 15 cents; very dull—Rice 3 a 3½ cents—Ship and Flooring Plank, \$25 a 27—shingles, best 6½ a \$7, common, \$3 to 4½ per M.

Early Cabbage Seeds.

THE subscriber has received per ship *Mary Ann*, from Liverpool, a fresh supply of those very excellent seeds, called

Early George and Wellington Cabbage, each kind of which possesses the following qualities: they produce very genuine plants, which are very hardy in standing the winter, and they make cabbage from two to three weeks sooner than the Early Yorks.

These seeds are the production of a gentleman who has discovered the method of raising them so as to prevent any of the plants from running to seed in the spring.

In conformation to the above I here subjoin the testimony of some of the most respectable gardeners of Baltimore market, who have made use of it two or three years.

BALTIMORE, July 14th, 1821.

We, the undersigned do certify that the seeds called *Early George and Wellington Cabbage*, which are imported and sold by Samuel Ault, are of the very best quality, being very early and genuine; likewise very hardy in standing the winter.

John Mycroft
Thomas Lewis
Edmund Evans

Peter Hatman
Samuel Register
Valentine Lutz

The price of the above seed is 50 cents per ounce—the ounce will yield upwards of 2,000 fine Cabbages—the time to sow this seed is the beginning of September—Sold only by SAMUEL ROSE, & Co. No. 1, Market-St. and by the subscriber, Bridge-St. two doors above the Independent Fire Engine House.

SAML. AULT.